

JOURNAL OF DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS 37, 89–97 (1980)

On Differential Relations with Lower Continuous Right-Hand Side. An Existence Theorem*

A. BRESSAN

Istituto di Matematica Applicata, Università, Via Belzoni 7, 35100 Padova, Italy

Received August 16, 1979

1. INTRODUCTION

In this paper we consider differential relations of the form

$$x' \in F(t, x), \quad (1.1)$$

where F is a multifunction that is defined on a suitable subset $I \times B$ of \mathbb{R}^{n+1} and takes values in the family of nonempty, compact but not necessarily convex, subsets of \mathbb{R}^n . Assuming that F is continuous with respect to x , the existence of solutions for (1.1) has been proved recently by several different techniques [1–6]. In particular, in [1] a selection theorem is first established, which yields the existence of a solution of (1.1) as a direct consequence of Schauder's fixed-point theorem.

Our present aim is to prove an existence theorem for lower continuous differential relations. Lower continuous orientor fields often arise in control theory. Namely, if

$$x' = f(t, x, u), \quad u \in \mathcal{U}, \quad (1.2)$$

describes a control system, we may ask about solutions $t \rightarrow x(t, u(t))$ of (1.2) for which $x'(t, u)$ belongs a.e. to the closure $F^*(t, x)$ of the set of extreme points of

$$F(t, x) = \{f(t, x, u): u \in \mathcal{U}\}.$$

Clearly, if F is Hausdorff continuous and compact valued, F^* is lower continuous. In the linear case, this subject had a deep investigation leading to the bang-bang principle. In the general case nothing can be said unless some solutions for

$$x' \in F^*(t, x)$$

are provided. Now let $\mu_{t,x}(\cdot)$ denote a measure, for instance, a probability distribution on the values $u'(t, x)$ of derivatives u' at (t, x) . If $\mu_{t,x}$ depends on

* Supported by the CNR, Comitato per la Matematica.

(t, x) in a weakly continuous way, and some fixed compact X contains the support of $\mu_{t,x}$ for all t and x , then the mapping

$$(t, x) \rightarrow \text{Supp}(\mu_{t,x})$$

affords another example of a lower continuous field.

The proof of our existence theorem is similiar in the main lines to the one written in [1] for the continuous case. For each absolutely continuous $u: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ we consider the set $G(u)$ of the integrable mappings v such that $v(t) \in F(t, u(t))$ at almost each $t \in I$. The mapping $u \rightarrow G(u)$ is then lower continuous. Our main theorem states that G admits a continuous selection. If G takes only convex values, this theorem becomes a consequence of a well-known result of Michael [8]. In the general case $G(u)$ is not convex; however, we can still define some kind of combinations of arbitrary elements v_1, \dots, v_m of $G(u)$: the mappings v such that, for some measurable partition (J_1, \dots, J_m) of I , $v(t) = v_i(t)$ iff $t \in J_i$, ($i = 1, \dots, m$). Clearly $v \in G(u)$. This property of G , together with accurate choices of the aforementioned partitions, based upon a systematic use of continuous partitions of unity, enables us to construct a suitable sequence of approximate selections. The limit of this sequence is shown to exist and to be a continuous selection. This fact allows us to deduce the existence of solutions for (1.1) by means of Schauder's theorem.

2. NOTATIONS AND BASIC DEFINITIONS

Throughout this paper we consider a mapping F defined in a compact subset R of \mathbb{R}^{n+1} , with values in the family $\text{comp } X$ of nonempty compact subsets of a bounded subspace X of \mathbb{R}^n . For simplicity, we assume that $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ is a closed ball with center at the origin and radius $M > 0$, and that $R = I \times B$, where $B \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ is a closed ball with center at the origin and radius $b > 0$, and where I is the nondegenerate closed interval $[0, T]$, with $T \leq b/M$.

We use the symbol $d(\cdot, \cdot)$ for the metric in point-spaces, such as R and X and use $D(\cdot, \cdot)$ for the Hausdorff distance in $\text{comp } X$. We write $d(x, A)$ for the distance $\inf\{d(x, a); a \in A\}$ from the point x to the set A , $\Delta(A)$ for the diameter of the set A , and $B[A, \epsilon]$ for the closed ball $\{b: d(b, A) \leq \epsilon\}$ of radius $\epsilon > 0$ about the set A . $\mu(\cdot)$ denotes the Lebesgue measure on I . Recall that a mapping $F: R \rightarrow \text{comp } X$ is lower continuous iff

$$\forall z_0 \in R, \quad \forall \epsilon > 0, \quad \exists \delta > 0: d(z, z_0) \leq \delta \Rightarrow F(z_0) \subseteq B[F(z), \epsilon]. \quad (2.1)$$

Let \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{L}^1 denote the Banach spaces of continuous and Lebesgue integrable mappings of I into \mathbb{R}^n , respectively, and define \mathcal{K} as the family of absolutely continuous mappings $u: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $u(0) = 0$ and $\|u'(t)\| \leq M$ at almost

every $t \in I$. \mathcal{K} is known, to be a nonempty, compact and convex subset of \mathcal{C} . Finally, for any $u \in \mathcal{K}$, we define $G(u)$ by

$$G(u) = \{v \in \mathcal{L}^1: v(t) \in F(t, u(t)) \text{ a.e. in } I\}. \quad (2.2)$$

Some results on $G(u)$ will be given in the next section.

3. PRELIMINARY RESULTS

PROPOSITION 1. *Let F be lower continuous, $u_0 \in K$, $\epsilon > 0$ and $\epsilon' > 0$. Then there exists a $\rho > 0$ and a compact $E \subseteq I$ such that*

$$\mu(I - E) \leq \epsilon', \quad (3.1)$$

$$\|u - u_0\| \leq \rho \Rightarrow F(t, u_0(t)) \subseteq B[F(t, u(t)), \epsilon], \quad \forall t \in E, \quad \forall u \in \mathcal{K}. \quad (3.2)$$

Proof. The mapping $t \rightarrow F(t, u_0(t))$ is lower continuous, hence measurable. According to [9], a compact $E \subseteq I$ can be found, with $\mu(I - E) \leq \epsilon'$, such that the restriction of the map $t \rightarrow F(t, u_0(t))$ to E is continuous. Hence for some $\sigma > 0$

$$|t_1 - t_2| \leq \sigma \Rightarrow D(F(t_1, u_0(t_1)), F(t_2, u_0(t_2))) \leq \epsilon/2, \quad \forall t_1, t_2 \in E, \quad (3.3)$$

and we can cover the compact set $E_0 = \{(t, u_0(t)): t \in E\} \subseteq R$ with a finite number of open balls $(B_i)_{1 \leq i \leq m}$ with centers at the points $c_i = (t_i, u_0(t_i))$ and radii ρ_i , where, for $1 \leq i \leq m$, $t_i \in E$, $\rho_i \leq \sigma$, and

$$d((t, x), (t_i, u_0(t_i))) \leq \rho_i \Rightarrow F(t_i, u_0(t_i)) \subseteq B[F(t, x), \epsilon/2], \quad \forall (t, x) \in R. \quad (3.4)$$

Clearly, if $t \in E$ and $(t, x) \in B_i$ for some i , then

$$F(t, u_0(t)) \subseteq B[F(t_i, u_0(t_i)), \epsilon/2] \subseteq B[F(t, x), \epsilon]. \quad (3.5)$$

We can now choose a $\rho > 0$ for which

$$B[E_0, \rho] \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^m B_i, \quad (3.6)$$

so that condition (3.2) holds.

PROPOSITION 2. *Let F be lower continuous. Then, for any $u \in \mathcal{K}$, $G(u)$ is a nonempty closed, and bounded subset of \mathcal{L}^1 . Moreover, the mapping $u \rightarrow G(u)$ is lower continuous.*

Proof. Being measurable, the mapping $t \rightarrow F(t, u(t))$ admits some measurable selection f (see [7]), which is an element of $G(u)$. Hence $G(u) \neq \emptyset$. Let now

$(f_n)_{n \geq 1}$ be a sequence of functions in $G(u)$ that converges to \bar{f} in the \mathcal{L}^1 -norm. This implies that, for a suitable subsequence (f_{n_k}) ,

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} f_{n_k}(t) = \bar{f}(t) \quad \text{a.e. in } I,$$

so that $f(t) \in F(t, u(t))$ a.e., because $F(t, u(t))$ is closed. Thus $f \in G(u)$. The boundedness of $G(u)$ is obvious.

Finally, let $u_0 \in \mathcal{K}$ and $\epsilon > 0$ be given. According to Proposition 1, we can choose a $\rho > 0$ and a compact set $E \subseteq I$ that satisfy

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(I - E) &\leq \epsilon/4M, \\ \|u - u_0\| \leq \rho &\Rightarrow F(t, u_0(t)) \subseteq B[F(t, u(t)), \epsilon/2T], \quad \forall t \in E, \quad \forall u \in \mathcal{K}. \end{aligned} \quad (3.8)$$

Take now any $f_0 \in G(u_0)$ and any $u \in \mathcal{K}$, with $\|u - u_0\| \leq \rho$. Our last thesis will be proved if we exhibit an $f \in G(u)$ such that $\|f - f_0\| \leq \epsilon$. To do this, we define a measurable mapping $H: I \rightarrow \text{comp } X$ as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} H(t) &= F(t, u(t)) \cap B[\{f_0(t)\}, \epsilon/2T] & \text{if } t \in E, \\ &= F(t, u(t)) & \text{if } t \notin E, \end{aligned} \quad (3.9)$$

and we select a measurable $f: I \rightarrow X$ such that $f(t) \in H(t)$ for all $t \in I$. Clearly

$$\begin{aligned} \|f - f_0\|_1 &= \int_E \|f(t) - f_0(t)\| dt + \int_{I-E} \|f(t) - f_0(t)\| dt \\ &\leq T \cdot \epsilon/2T + 2M \cdot \epsilon/2M = \epsilon. \end{aligned}$$

Q.E.D.

4. A SELECTION THEOREM

THEOREM 1. *Let $F: R \rightarrow \text{comp } X$ be lower continuous. Then there exists a continuous mapping $g: \mathcal{K} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}^1$ such that, for every $u \in \mathcal{K}$, we have $g(u)(t) \in F(t, u(t))$ at almost every $t \in I$.*

Otherwise stated, if F is lower continuous, then the lower continuous set-valued mapping G defined by (2.2) admits a continuous selection.

We begin our proof by constructing an approximating sequence of mappings $(g_n)_{n \geq 0}$ from \mathcal{K} to \mathcal{L}^1 , in such a way that the following recursive conditions are satisfied:

- (a)_n g_n is continuous,
- (b)_n $\forall u \in \mathcal{K}, \mu(W_n(u)) \leq 2^{-n}$, where

$$W_n(u) = \{t \in I: d(g_n(u)(t), F(t, u(t))) > M \cdot 2^{-n}\}, \quad (4.1)$$

- (c)_n $\forall u \in \mathcal{X}, \mu(\{t \in I: d(g_n(u)(t), g_{n-1}(u)(t)) > M \cdot 2^{-n+1}\}) \leq 2^{-n+3},$
 (d)_n $\exists \delta_n > 0$ such that, if $V \subseteq \mathcal{X}$ and $\Delta(V) \leq \delta_n$, then

$$\mu\left(\bigcup_{u \in V} W_n(u)\right) \leq 2^{-n+1}, \quad (4.2)$$

and

$$\mu(\{t \in I: \exists u, v \in V; g_n(u)(t) \neq g_n(v)(t)\}) \leq 2^{-n+3}. \quad (4.3)$$

Define $g_0(u)(t) = 0$ for every $u \in \mathcal{X}$ and every $t \in I$. Conditions (a)₀ to (d)₀ are then trivially fulfilled. Let now g_{n-1} be constructed. Choose δ_{n-1} in such a way that the condition in (d)_{n-1} is satisfied. For each $u \in \mathcal{X}$, by Proposition 1, we have a $\rho = \rho(u) > 0$ and a compact set $E = E(u) \subseteq I$ for which

$$0 < \rho(u) < \delta_{n-1}/2, \quad (4.4)$$

$$\mu(I - E(u)) \leq 2^{-n}, \quad (4.5)$$

$$d(x, u(t)) \leq \rho(u) \Rightarrow F(t, u(t)) \subseteq B[F(t, x), M \cdot 2^{-n}], \quad \forall t \in E(u). \quad (4.6)$$

Since \mathcal{X} is compact, it can be covered with a finite number of open balls $(U_i)_{1 \leq i \leq m}$ with centers at some points u_i and radii $\rho_i = \rho(u_i)$. Construct now a continuous partition of unity $(p_i)_{1 \leq i \leq m}$ subordinate to the covering (U_i) . For each i , choose $v_i \in G(u_i)$ such that

$$d(v_i(t), g_{n-1}(u_i)(t)) \leq 2^{-n+1} \cdot M, \quad \forall t \notin W_{n-1}(u_i). \quad (4.7)$$

The proof of Proposition 2 shows that this is possible. In analogy with [1], we shall define g_n letting $g_n(u)(t)$ coincide with $v_i(t)$ whenever $t \in J_i(u)$, where the sets $(J_i(u))_{1 \leq i \leq m}$ form a partition of I and have measures proportional to the coefficients $p_i(u)$. The fulfillment of (a)_n to (d)_n requires a very careful construction of the sets $J_i(u)$.

Recalling (4.6), for $1 \leq i \leq m$ we define

$$A_i^+ = E(u_i), \quad A_i^- = I \setminus A_i^+. \quad (4.8)$$

By (4.5) we have

$$\mu(A_i^+) \geq T - 2^{-n}, \quad \mu(A_i^-) \leq 2^{-n}. \quad (4.9)$$

Let Γ^m be the family of m -vectors $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m)$ such that

$$\sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i = T, \quad 0 \leq \lambda_i \leq T \quad (i = 1, \dots, m).$$

For $\lambda \in \Gamma^m$, we construct the partition $(J_1(\lambda), \dots, J_n(\lambda))$ inductively as follows: Let $J_k(\lambda)$ be defined for any $k < i$. Then we set

$$Y_i(\lambda) = I \setminus \bigcup_{k < i} J_k(\lambda), \quad (4.10)$$

$$Y_i^+(\lambda) = Y_i(\lambda) \cap A_i^+, \quad Y_i^-(\lambda) = Y_i(\lambda) \cap A_i^-.$$

We define a mapping $\varphi_{i,\lambda}$ from $Y_i(\lambda)$ to \mathbb{R} by the condition

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_{i,\lambda}(t) &= \mu([0, t] \cap Y_i^+(\lambda)) & \text{if } t \in Y_i^+(\lambda), \\ &= \mu([0, t] \cap Y_i^-(\lambda)) + \mu(y_i^+(\lambda)) & \text{if } t \in Y_i^-(\lambda), \end{aligned} \quad (4.11)$$

and take $J_i(\lambda)$ to be the inverse image of the interval $[0, \lambda_i]$:

$$J_i(\lambda) = \varphi_{i,\lambda}^{-1}([0, \lambda_i]). \quad (4.12)$$

For $u \in \mathcal{X}$ and $1 \leq i \leq m$ we now define $Y_i(u)$, $\varphi_{i,u}$ and $J_i(u)$ as given by (4.10), (4.11), and (4.12), respectively, for $\lambda = (T \cdot p_1(u), \dots, T \cdot p_m(u))$. Finally we define

$$g_n(u)(t) = \sum_{i=1}^m \chi[J_i(u)](t) \cdot v_i(t), \quad (4.13)$$

where $\chi[J_i(u)]$ is the characteristic function of $J_i(u)$.

We claim that conditions (a)_n to (d)_n hold.

Let us start proving (b)_n. If $u \in \mathcal{X}$ and $t \in J_i(u) \cap A_i^+$ for some i , then (4.6) shows that $t \notin W_n(u)$. Hence

$$W_n(u) \subseteq \bigcup_{1 \leq i \leq m} (J_i(u) \cap A_i^-). \quad (4.14)$$

We shall deduce (b)_n by showing that

$$\mu \left(\bigcup_{1 \leq i \leq m} (J_i(u) \cap A_i^+) \right) \geq T - 2^{-n}. \quad (4.15)$$

The $\varphi_{i,u}$ are measure preserving mappings; thus

$$\mu(J_i(u)) = T \cdot p_i(u) \quad (1 \leq i \leq m). \quad (4.16)$$

By construction, we also have

$$\mu(J_i(u) \cap A_i^+) \geq \inf\{T \cdot p_i(u), \mu(Y_i^+(u))\} \geq \inf\{T \cdot p_i(u), \mu(Y_i(u)) - 2^{-n}\}. \quad (4.17)$$

Let ν be the smallest integer for which

$$\sum_{i \leq \nu} p_i(u) > 1 - 2^{-n}/T. \quad (4.18)$$

If $i < \nu$, by (4.18), $T \cdot p_i(u) \leq \mu(Y_i(u)) - 2^{-n}$; thus (4.17) implies

$$\mu(J_i(u) \cap A_i^+) = T \cdot p_i(u). \quad (4.19)$$

Furthermore, by (4.18), $T \cdot p_i(u) > T - 2^{-n} - \sum_{i < \nu} T \cdot p_i(u)$, and from (4.17) we infer

$$\mu(J_\nu(u) \cap A_\nu^+) \geq T - 2^{-n} - \sum_{i < \nu} T \cdot p_i(u). \quad (4.20)$$

Summing (4.19) with (4.20), we obtain

$$\sum_{i=1}^m \mu(J_i(u) \cap A_i^+) \geq \sum_{i=1}^{\nu} \mu(J_i(u) \cap A_i^+) \geq T - 2^{-n}, \quad (4.21)$$

which proves (4.15).

To deduce (c)_n, for $u \in \mathcal{X}$, call $\mathcal{T}(u)$ the set of indices i such that $p_i(u)$ is strictly positive. Because of (4.4), $\|u_i - u\| \leq \delta_{n-1}/2$ for any $i \in \mathcal{T}(u)$ hence the set $\{u, u_i : i \in \mathcal{T}(u)\}$ has a diameter smaller than δ_{n-1} , and (d)_{n-1} provides the existence of two sets $\mathcal{N}_1, \mathcal{N}_2 \subseteq I$ such that

$$\mu(\mathcal{N}_1) \leq 2^{-n+2}, \quad \mu(\mathcal{N}_2) \leq 2^{-n+1}, \quad (4.22)$$

$$\mathcal{N}_1 \supseteq \left(\bigcup_{i \in \mathcal{T}(u)} W_{n-1}(u_i) \right), \quad (4.23)$$

and

$$g_{n-1}(u_i)(t) = g_{n-1}(u)(t) \quad \text{for any } i \in \mathcal{T}(u), \quad t \notin \mathcal{N}_2. \quad (4.24)$$

Let $t \notin \mathcal{N}_1 \cup \mathcal{N}_2$. Then $g_n(u)(t) = v_i(t)$ for some $i \in \mathcal{T}(u)$; furthermore, by (4.7) and (4.23), $d(v_i(t), g_{n-1}(u_i)(t)) \leq M \cdot 2^{-n+1}$, and by (4.24), $g_{n-1}(u_i)(t) = g_{n-1}(u)(t)$. Hence $d(g_n(u)(t), g_{n-1}(u)(t)) \leq M \cdot 2^{-n+1}$, which yields (c)_n, because $\mu(\mathcal{N}_1 \cup \mathcal{N}_2) \leq 2^{-n+3}$.

We come now to the proof of (d)_n. For $V \subseteq I^m$ and $\Delta(V) \leq \delta$, we consider the set $A \subseteq I$ of the points assigned to different J_i 's by two suitable elements of V :

$$A = \{t \in I : \exists i, \exists \lambda, \lambda' \in V; t \in J_i(\lambda), t \notin J_i(\lambda')\}. \quad (4.25)$$

By setting

$$A_k = \{t \in I : \exists \lambda, \lambda' \in V; t \in J_k(\lambda), t \notin J_k(\lambda')\}, \quad (4.26)$$

so that $A = \bigcup_k A_k$, it can be seen by induction that $\mu(A_k) \leq k \cdot \delta$, hence

$$\mu(A) \leq m^2 \cdot \delta. \quad (4.27)$$

From (4.27) and the equicontinuity of the family of mappings $(p_i)_{1 \leq i \leq m}$ we infer the existence of a $\delta_n > 0$ such that $V \subseteq \mathcal{X}$ and $\Delta(V) \leq \delta_n$ imply

$$\mu(\{t \in I : \exists i, \exists u, v \in V; t \in J_i(u), t \notin J_i(v)\}) \leq 2^{-n}, \quad (4.28)$$

which immediately yields (4.3). Furthermore, using (4.14) and (4.28) we obtain

$$\mu \left(\bigcup_{\mu \in V} W_n(u) \right) \leq \mu \left(\bigcup_{\mu \in V} \left(\bigcup_{i=1}^m (J_i(u) \cap A_i^-) \right) \right) \leq 2^{-n+1}. \quad (4.29)$$

Finally, $(a)_n$ is seen to be a consequence of (4.27) and of the equicontinuity of the mappings $(p_i)_{1 \leq i \leq m}$.

We have thus proved the existence of an approximating sequence (g_n) with the desired properties. For any $u \in \mathcal{K}$, $(b)_n$, and $(c)_n$ show that

$$d(g_n(u), G(u)) \leq 2^{-n} \cdot T \cdot M + 2^{-n} \cdot 2M, \quad (4.30)$$

$$d(g_n(u), g_{n-1}(u)) \leq 2^{-n+1} \cdot T \cdot M + 2^{-n+3} \cdot 2M, \quad (4.31)$$

where $d(\cdot, \cdot)$ is the distance induced by the norm in \mathcal{L}^1 . By (4.31), for each $u \in \mathcal{K}$ $(g_n(u))_{n \geq 0}$ is a Cauchy sequence. Then the completeness of \mathcal{L}^1 provides the existence of a limit $g(u) \in \mathcal{L}^1$. The mapping $u \rightarrow g(u)$, being a uniform limit of continuous mappings, is also continuous. Moreover, by (4.30),

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} d(g_n(u), G(u)) = 0. \quad (4.32)$$

Thus $g(u) \in G(u)$, because $G(u)$ is closed, and our proof is complete.

Remark. The lower continuity of F from the product space $I \times B$ to $\text{comp } X$, assumed in the preceding proof, cannot be replaced by the lower continuity of F with respect to the variables t and x separately, because this assumption does not provide the measurability of the composite mappings $t \rightarrow F(t, u(t))$, for $u \in \mathcal{K}$.

Nevertheless, it can be seen that the hypothesis of Theorem 1 can be somewhat weakened; in fact the following can be proved:

Let $(I_k)_{k \geq 1}$ be a countable measurable covering of I . If the restriction of F to each product space $I_k \times B$ is lower continuous, then the conclusion of Theorem 1 still holds.

5. AN EXISTENCE THEOREM

THEOREM 2. *If $F: R \rightarrow \text{comp } X$ is lower continuous, there exists an absolutely continuous mapping \hat{u} of I into \mathbb{R}^n such that $\hat{u}(0) = 0$ and $\hat{u}'(t) \in F(t, \hat{u}(t))$ at almost every $t \in I$.*

Indeed, Theorem 1 enables us to construct a continuous mapping $g: \mathcal{K} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}^1$ such that, for each $u \in \mathcal{K}$, $g(u)(t) \in F(t, u(t))$ at almost every $t \in I$. For each $u \in \mathcal{K}$, let $h(u)$ be the mapping of I into \mathbb{R}^n defined by

$$h(u)(t) = \int_0^t g(u)(s) \, ds. \quad (5.1)$$

Clearly, h is a continuous mapping of \mathcal{K} into itself. Hence, by Schauder's theorem, there exists a point $\hat{u} \in \mathcal{K}$ for which $\hat{u} = h(\hat{u})$ i.e., $\hat{u}(t) = h(\hat{u})(t)$ at every $t \in I$. This implies $\hat{u}(0) = 0$ and $\hat{u}'(t) = g(\hat{u})(t) \in F(t, \hat{u}(t))$ at almost every $t \in I$.

COROLLARY. *Let $F: R \rightarrow \text{comp } X$ be continuous. Then there exists an absolutely continuous mapping $\hat{u}: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $\hat{u}(0) = 0$ and $\hat{u}'(t) \in F^*(t, \hat{u}(t))$ at almost every $t \in I$, where $F^*(t, x)$ denotes the closure of the set of extreme points of $F(t, x)$.*

Namely, the mapping $(t, x) \rightarrow F^*(t, x)$ is lower continuous.

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